

TOWN Reminder

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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Dog park a reality



There are two sections of the South Hadley dog park, one for small dogs and all dogs, as well as COVID-19 related rules for those who use it.

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – After three years of arduous preparation, the South Hadley Dog Park opened to the public on Oct. 8. The 1.8-acre facility offers separate play areas for both small and large dogs to exercise and recreate.

“It is fabulous. It’s beyond fabulous. The park is beautiful. It’s just wonderful for dogs and their human owners,” said Brenda Mathieu, President of the Friends

Please see **DOG PARK**, page 11



Photos by Melina Bourdeau

Holyoke resident Jennifer Nascimento and her French bulldog, Fiona, visited the dog park on Wednesday.

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Second surge on horizon, South Hadley prepares

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Surrounded by multiple high-risk communities, the town of South Hadley is preparing to face a second surge of COVID-19. From Oct. 20 to 27, South Hadley recorded four new confirmed cases

and six new contact cases of the novel coronavirus.

“It’s something that we’ve been predicting for some time. It doesn’t really come as a big surprise to us that the state is going up,” said Town Administrator Mike Sullivan.

In western Massachusetts, COVID-19 case counts are

steadily increasing, as temperatures begin to dip. Residents have been advised to take extra precautions to curb the spread of infection.

South Hadley’s neighboring cities of Chicopee and Holyoke have been listed as “red zones” by the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, a designation as-

signed to communities that are reporting the state’s most severe coronavirus transmission rates.

“Holyoke is really in a tough spot. There’s been an outbreak at the Holyoke Medical Center,” said Sullivan. “I think that

Please see **SURGE**, page 3

Bingo for businesses

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

In a campaign to drum up support for local businesses, the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce has launched a creative new activity for all to partake in.

The chamber recently created a bingo square that features

all of its members. Residents who complete a row by presenting receipts acquired from participating businesses will become eligible to win one of several prizes.

“The concept is simple. It’s the game bingo and it’s open to

Please see **BINGO**, page 11

Selectboard approved next interim fire chief

Pittsfield resident selected

By MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

GRANBY – The Granby Selectboard unanimously approved the selection of an interim fire chief on Monday evening, voting for Robert Czerwinski to take the helm pending contract negotiations.

Selectboard Chair Glen Sexton opened the board’s discussion by thanking all the applicants.

“We had great candidates for the position, and I wanted to take time to recognize them,” he said. “I want to thank them for their time, service, experience and knowledge, as well as all the departments they worked for. Hearing them speak, it was impressive to see that, they all

did a nice job.”

The board briefly took turns stating their selection and unanimously approved Czerwinski.

Czerwinski retired from the Pittsfield Fire Department in July of 2019 where he had worked since 1987, according to his resume.

Beginning as a firefighter, he worked his through the ranks up to chief where he served for nine years.

Prior to Pittsfield, Czerwinski worked for the Longmeadow Fire Department for one year and the New Hackensack Fire Company for ten years as a volunteer firefighter.

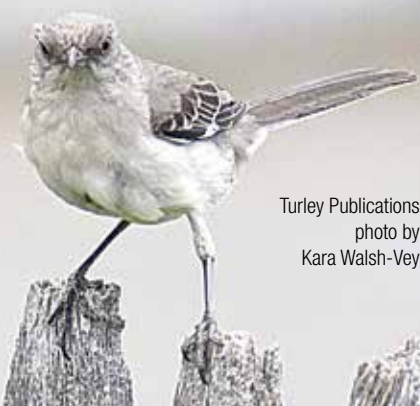
In his interview on Oct. 21, Czerwinski told the board about three areas that were important in supervising the department.

“Three areas I feel are important for supervision is, num-

Please see **CHIEF**, page 6

Don't Mock Me

This mockingbird is resting on a fence with a stern look making sure you take your right to vote seriously. Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 3.



Turley Publications
photo by
Kara Walsh-Vey

► South Hadley

Voting to look a little different in South Hadley

By MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

SOUTH HADLEY – In preparation for Election day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, town officials have put together a video instructing voters of what to expect when they go to cast their ballots.

Registrar of Voters, Nicole Casolari, narrates the three-minute long video about the “new model” for in person voting.

“All precincts will still be voting at South Hadley High School, but in effort to make the experience safer and more comfortable for voters, precincts will be separated into four different entrances and voting will take place in different spaces within the school,” said Casolari.

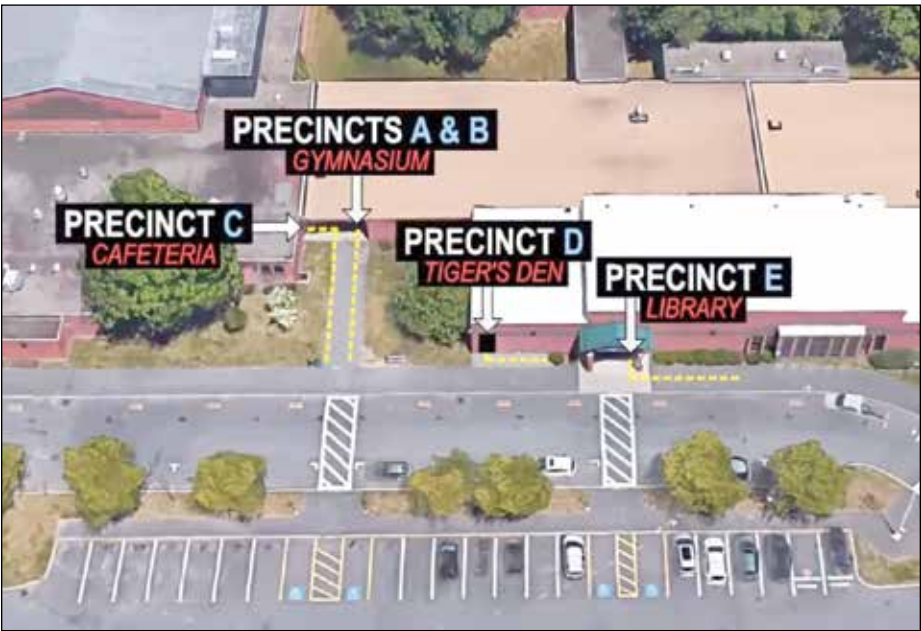
Precincts A and B will still be voting in the gymnasium and voters in that precinct will enter the building through the farthest right gymnasium door.

Precinct C will be voting in cafeteria one and voters will be entering through the cafeteria doors which is to the left of the gymnasium doors.

Precinct D will be voting in the Tiger’s Den and voters will enter through the Tiger’s Den entrance.

Precinct E will be voting in the library and voters will enter through the farthest right library door.

There will be signs and outside to direct voters to the right lines, but Casolari said voters are asked to “come prepared by knowing their precinct and a general sense of where they will be voting to create a safe and comfortable experience for all.”



The following places are labelled for the new locations voters in each precinct will go to vote on Nov. 3 at South Hadley High School.

These changes are being made based on experiences from the primary in Sept. said Casolari.

“Staff also recognized that there was significant sound barriers between voters and poll workers during check in and check out due to the plexiglass between them,” said Casolari. “For a more comfortable experience we are recommending voters come with their name and street address written down on a piece of paper or having their id available to show through the plexiglass at check-in and check-out.”

She said it is not a requirement but will make the experience smoother by eliminating the need to repeat information and reducing the time spent in the building.

“This new model to maintain safety of voters, election workers and community as a whole,” said Casolari.

For more information about the upcoming election go to the South Hadley town clerk’s website at www.southhadley.org/156/clerk or call the clerk, Carlene Hamlin at 413-538-5060 ext. 6115.

Chicopee woman dies in two vehicle accident

SOUTH HADLEY – A crash involving two vehicles on New Ludlow Road near the Chicopee-South Hadley line, after 8 p.m. on Oct. 27, has claimed the life of a 48-year-old Chicopee woman.

South Hadley Police with the assistance of Chicopee Police and Granby Police initially responded. South Hadley Fire District 1 personnel were already on scene and extinguished a fire in one of the vehicles.

The victim was pronounced dead at the site of the crash. The driver of the other vehicle remained on the scene and cooperated with the investigation. No charges or citations have been issued.

The incident remains under investigation by South Hadley Police, Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office and MSP Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section (CARS).

The deceased woman in a two-car crash on Ludlow Road in South Hadley, Tuesday night, has been identified as Rachel Kimball, 48, of Chicopee.

South Hadley Police investigating shooting

SOUTH HADLEY – On Oct. 27, at about 7:50 p.m. South Hadley patrol officers were dispatched to the area of Camden and Lyman St. on numerous reports of gunshots.

It was also reported at that time that there was a single victim who was transported to the hospital by South Hadley Fire District 1 ambulance, with what was deemed to be a non-life-threatening gunshot wound.

This incident is currently being investigated by South Hadley Police and State Police detectives. It appears to be an isolated incident without threat to the community.

If you have any information related to this shooting contact Det. Felix Blaney-Perez at 413-538-8231 ext. 6318.

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200 pounds of food collected for Neighbors Helping Neighbors

SOUTH HADLEY – An internal food drive held at the South Hadley Police Station and South Hadley Town hall netted 281 pounds of non-perishables to be donated to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry. A total of \$520 was collected among the two staff groups to be donated to the pantry as well.

For each dollar raised, three meals are provided through the support of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. The non-perishables will assist the pantry in its mission to provide between six to eight days of food each month for each household member in need.

Now more than ever the pantry needs donations of money, non-perishables and toiletries to help South Hadley and Granby families in need.

The pantry is located within the United Methodist Church at 30 Carew St. in South Hadley. Volunteers can be reached at info@nhnfoodpantry.org or by calling 413-437-7593. Its website is <https://www.nhnfoodpantry.org/> and it can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/nhnfoodpantry>.

Consider contacting the pantry to see how you can help fulfill any specific need.

Grab and go lunch on Veterans' Day

SOUTH HADLEY – A Grab and Go Lunch to benefit the St Patrick's Ladies Guild's charitable activities will be offered on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St Patrick's Church parking lot on School Street. Lunches will be delivered to your car.

The menu is a choice of soup - corn chowder with bacon or vegetable rice, choice of croissant sandwich: ham and swiss or turkey and cheddar, chocolate chip cookie (without nuts).

The cost is \$7 and a 16 oz bottle of water is \$1 extra.

Please send a check payable to St Patrick's Ladies Guild with your order to: Ladies Guild Grab and Go, St Patrick's Church 30 Main St., South Hadley, MA 01075.

Or order online, using Venmo at <http://fsant523.wixsite.com/parish-meals>

Orders with payment are due by Nov. 4, 2020. Due to COVID-19 concerns, no orders will be accepted on Nov. 11.

The craft fair, a major Ladies Guild fundraiser for scholarships and other charitable work, was cancelled this year due to COVID-19 concerns.

Superintendent interviews underway

School committee plans for packed two weeks

By MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley School Committee and Superintendent search committee will have a busy Nov. between virtual interviews, community tours and the decision to select the next superintendent.

In its Oct. 20 meeting, the South Hadley School Committee discussed the tentative timeline for the next month.

Selectboard member Allison Schlachter said the search committee, which she and fellow member Christine Phillips serve on, have a goal of narrowing down the 14 applicants to six candidates whose interviews were held in executive session which began last week.

All of the semi-finalist interviews will be completed by Oct. 27, Schlachter said.

Then on Oct. 28, the search committee deliberated in executive session to decide which candidates would move on as finalists.

“The next day, what I will do after we’ve chosen our finalists, I’m going to guess three, I’ll call them and I’ll make sure they’re still interested because at that point it’s no longer a confidential process, at that point once they become finalists then it becomes public,” Schlachter said. “Christine and I would come to the school committee meeting on Nov. 2 and we would announce the names of the finalists and that’s the first time the names will be public.”

At that time, the work of the super-

intendent search committee will then be complete and the school committee will take over the process beginning with announcing the candidates in its Nov. 2 meeting.

“The week of the (Nov. 2) we will work on organizing and scheduling all of the many coming events that will happen over the next two weeks from Nov. 2 to the Nov. 19,” Schlachter said. Using the week of Nov. 2, the committee will schedule and organize community meetings between the finalists and each finalist’s interview. “The following week of Nov. 9, we will need to attend scheduled meetings or virtual site visits with each of the finalists’ respective communities. This is when we go into their community via Zoom. The finalists will be responsible for setting these meetings up. Typically meetings would be set up with school committee members they’re currently working with, their student councils, groups of teachers, groups of administrators, people from the selectboard or whoever they want us to talk with who could attest to their skills and character.”

Under Schlachter’s recommendation, the committee agreed to divide into groups of two – each attending all of the meetings for one candidate. Considering the extra member of the committee, one member would have to attend two candidate’s meetings.

“We can organize more about that when we talk on Nov. 2 when we announce the finalists,” added Schlachter.

The week of Nov. 16, the finalists will be come to into South Hadley for virtual site visits via Zoom. The way the Massachusetts Association of School Committees suggests holding the meetings is giv-

ing each candidate a full day.

“This is where it gets tricky for us,” Schlachter said. “We have a school committee meeting on the 16th then starting the 17th, candidate one comes and again they have zoom meetings that day with community members, central office staff, student council, teachers, administration staff – whatever groups we decide they should meet with. Then, in the evening they have their public interview with the school committee.”

Schlachter said suggested having one candidate per day from Tuesday, Nov. 17 to Thursday, Nov. 19

“Essentially that week we will need to hold three public virtual special meetings to conduct interviews,” she said. “Something to note is that the school committee is not allowed to hold any executive session to discuss candidates, all discussions must be held in open session. That’s the difference between the superintendent search committee – all of those sessions are confidential and in closed session because at that point in the process applicants are confidential and they cannot be discussed in public. After we announce no more private conversations.”

The committee tentatively planned on deciding who the next superintendent would be on the evening on Thursday, Nov. 19.

School Committee Chair Kyle Belanger said he was thrilled about the idea of having the interviews “getting it all out on the table an maybe by the time we go to bed on Nov. 19 we have a full offer to who will hopefully be our permanent superintendent.”

Once the candidate is selected, contract negotiations would still need to be done.

SURGE from page 1

it’s well under control, but rumors are all over the place, unfortunately. That affects South Hadley because we have so many people who live in town and work in the Holyoke Medical Center.”

The town is anxiously awaiting Election Day and holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s, all of which are expected to draw large gatherings. Sullivan noted that the town will deviate from traditional public holiday festivities and encouraged residents to do the same.

“We have to continually make people aware of how their interactions and habits affect their coworkers and families and encourage people, as we go into this cold and flu season, to be diligent about how you conduct yourselves and where you go,” said Sullivan.

Sullivan’s warnings are genuine. He recently bore witness to the fatal consequences of COVID-19, as a “young and active” extended family member succumbed to the virus less than two weeks after contracting it.

“He just drew the unlucky straw and had a quick spiral,” said Sullivan. “He had a cold and was home for a few days.

He went into the hospital, it got worse, he went into ICU, it got worse, he went into cardiac arrest and 10 days later he was gone. We’re all going to start hearing stories like that.”

The town of South Hadley is imploring residents to maintain social distancing, wear masks and avoid unnecessary trips into public. Sullivan suggested the use of online services and warned of the costly co-pays and medical expenses that one could incur while battling COVID-19.

Across the state, an increasing number of outbreaks are being associated with house parties. As the holiday approach, Sullivan recommends that families prioritize the safety of their households.

“I’ve heard of people who are telling their adult children who are coming back for the holidays that they have to be tested before they come home,” he said. “I don’t know how I would have felt if I got that call but I understand. I can’t imagine how difficult that will be, but it’s the right thing to do.”

South Hadley’s use of the BioBot

COVID-19 Sewage Testing Program continues to be productive. BioBot analyzes sewage to determine the presence of infected individuals and estimate the number of cases that exist in town.

While the program’s findings are not exact, BioBot has proven to be useful. Over the past two months, BioBot data has predicted rising and declining case counts.


“When we’ve started to see BioBot numbers go up, it seems to be followed by a surge, which we saw back in September,” said Sullivan. “Our highest numbers were on Sept. 29, following the BioBot increases by about a week or two. It did indicate for the weeks that we were down to zero that the number of RNA copies were also low. There would seem to be some kind of correlation.”

More information pertaining to the status of COVID-19 in South Hadley can be found at <https://www.southhadley.org/1026/COVID-19-RESPONSE>.

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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Opinion

HISTORY MATTERS

Looking back at history in October

By John Grimaldi
Guest columnist

Texas was in the middle of its war for independence from Mexico—and--in alarming need of protection for its spread-out settlers from the outlaws roaming its endless frontier. Finally, on Oct. 17, 1835, the government of the new republic stationed a police force -- the Texas Rangers -- to “range and guard the frontier between the Brazos and Trinity Rivers.”

At first, the Rangers were ordinary citizens who supplied their own horses, weapons, and had the authority to maintain law and order in the republic even after Texas joined the Union as the 28th state in 1845. In the ensuing years, the Rangers garnered a legendary reputation for tracking down miscreants and, by 1935, they became the official police force of the state. The Rangers still wear the distinctive silver Cinco Peso badge, today.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends Mike Cox’s “The Texas Rangers: Wearing the Cinco Peso, 1821-1900.”

Erie Canal

It took more than two years of plowing and digging to make the 425-mile Erie Canal connect middle America’s Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean, by way of New York’s Hudson River. The prodigious project was started in August 1823 and completed—ready for commerce--on Oct. 26, 1825. Although it was the pet project Gov. DeWitt Clinton, from New York, the concept of a waterway with such scope was originated by the Founding Fathers to unify America’s frontier with the original 13 colonies.

The Erie Canal -- or Clinton’s Ditch, as it became known -- helped provide that relationship. As History.com describes it: “Settlers poured into western New York, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Goods were transported at one-tenth the previous fee in less than half the time. Barges of farm produce and raw materials traveled east, as manufactured goods and supplies flowed west.”

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends Peter L. Bernstein’s “Wedding of the Waters: The Erie Canal and the Making of a Great Nation.”

Civil rights

The year 1950 was a breakthrough in the Civil Rights Movement; on Oct. 31st, Earl Lloyd became the first African American to play in the National Basketball Association for the Washington Capitols. Two other black players were also selected in the draft that year: Chuck Cooper was picked up by the Boston Celtics, and Nat “Sweetwater” Clifton was chosen by the New York Knicks, but those teams did not start their seasons until November.

Suddenly, after seven games, the U.S. Army drafted Lloyd; by the time he was discharged, the Capitols were out of business, and so he signed with the Syracuse Nationals (later the Philadelphia 76ers), and later played for the Detroit Pistons. He became their scout, assistant coach, and in 1970, Lloyd was elevated to head coach—the first African American in the league in that position.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends Fredrick McKissack’s “Black Hoops: The History of African Americans in Basketball.”



IN THE GARDEN

Crocus: a great spring pick me up

When I was a kid we had crocus growing in a rock garden behind our house. They bloomed religiously, year after year, with little effort on our part. As a young adult working at Old Sturbridge Village, I saw a lot of crocus there, too. I loved to look for the bright yellows and purples in the Towne and Fitch gardens, and even inside the homes when they were forced into bloom in really neat porcelain hedgehogs, modeled after period forcing pots! Hedgehogs aside, I haven’t had the same luck growing crocus in my own garden. Let’s take a crash course on crocus culture so that this harbinger of spring will be happy enough to stick around in my landscape and yours.

Crocuses are hardy throughout most of the continental United States, zones 3-8. Northern gardeners love that they tolerate frost so well, and given the right circumstances will actually do better here than if planted in warmer climates. In fact, those who garden in the South often enjoy crocus for only a single season, making them more of an annual instead of the perennial we are accustomed to.

Most crocus species prefer a location that mimics their native habitat: one in which winters are moist and summers are dry. This is because they, and others that fall under the category of “spring flowering bulbs,” go through a period of dormancy during the summer months. Since they are resting and not actively growing, they need to be kept dry; excess moisture will cause them to rot.

A full sun to partial shade situation is best for crocus and will encourage them to produce prolific, strong blossoms. Remember just how early in the season they bloom; many locations that wouldn’t work in summer are just fine in March-, under deciduous trees, for example, since they have yet to produce their leaves.

Plant crocus corms in the autumn, at

least 4 to 6 weeks before the ground freezes solid. These “modified stems” should be sunk twice as deep as they are thick, usually about four inches underground. Keep them that same distance apart from one another. Sometimes it is difficult to tell which end is “up.” Examine the corm carefully and you will likely notice the start of a shoot or two poking through a fibrous, papery covering on one side and a base plate with the remnants of the previous year’s roots on the other. Now that you know what to look for, planting them correctly is easy.

New crocus corms form above old corms each year. Keep a bed of crocus thriving by digging them up during dormancy and replanting them at the proper depth every third or fourth year. Tiny “cormlets” can be divided from the mother plant during this time as well. Usually they will take four or more years to produce blossoms.

Crocus corms are especially tasty to rodents. There are all kinds of tactics one can use to try and keep the buggers from eating them. Some gardeners go through the trouble of making little cages out of chicken wire and planting the corms inside. Others surround the corms with sharp gravel to discourage the animal from digging them up. There are also a number of deterrents, natural and otherwise, on the market that may be worth a try if you have a severe enough problem.

Now that I’ve had a refresher course on the basic requirements for crocus growing, I’ll likely try again. Hopefully you will too!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

A QUOTE

of NOTE
“It’s as much social interaction for the humans as it is for the dogs, especially given COVID. People are being very respectful. They have their masks on and are social distancing, but it is just fantastic to see these dogs running around having a great time.”

Brenda Mathieu,
President of the Friends of the
South Hadley Dog Park in the
story “Dog park a reality”

OPINION PAGE/
LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

TOWN
Reminder

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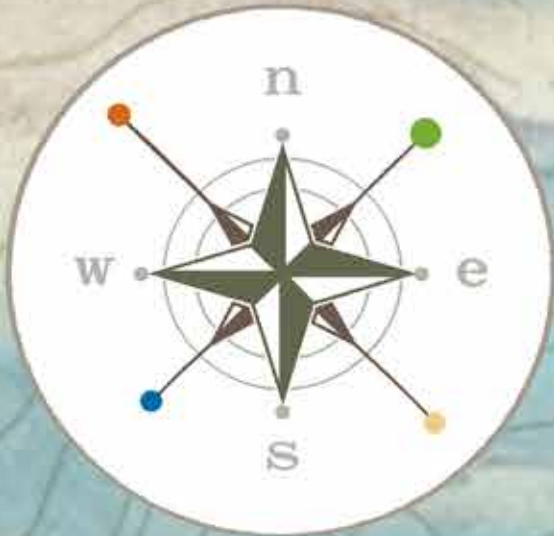
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► Granby

Granby library's reading prizes raffle

GRANBY – The following is an update from Granby Public Library.

Book Cart that you touch, there will be a quarantine basket for those books.

- Teen summer reading prizes through Oct. 22 to 30**

Teens, if you have read at least one book for the “Got Summer Reading?” program, come by the library lobby during open hours for your raffle tickets (one ticket per book read.)

Use your raffle tickets for raffles and/or to buy books from a special book cart in the lobby. Numbered prizes will be in the lobby cabinets. Write your first name, phone number and prize number on each ticket. Please print clearly.

Put your “Got Summer Reading?” sheet with book titles written on it, in the library book drop to validate your raffle tickets.

A large jar is supplied to put all raffle tickets in - don’t forget to include the prize number you want on your tickets.

In summary:

 1. Use raffle tickets for raffle - If you would like a chance to win a raffle prize with your tickets - Write your first name, phone number and prize number on each ticket. Please print clearly. Put raffle tickets in large plastic jar-orange table.
 2. Use raffle tickets to buy books in lobby. Pay for books by putting your tickets in the pail provided.

For your safety, only one person/family is allowed in the lobby at a time.

If you do not take a book on the
- Youth summer reading prizes from Nov. 3 to 13**

If you participated in this year’s youth summer program and picked up your completion prize pack containing Book Bucks, now is the time to use them.

Summer Reading was very different at the library this year and we still have prizes to give away. Due to COVID-19, in lieu of the usual raffle, we will choose prizes for readers. Stop by the library lobby during open hours to buy books with book bucks and/or fill out a summer raffle form by Nov. 3 to 13 with the following information:

Name, age, phone number, number of book bucks you earned (attached blank book bucks to form) and your interests, favorite books and characters.

We will fill out Book Bucks for you and put them in raffle prizes that you would like.

You may choose books from our Summer Reading Book Cart which will be put out in the library lobby for you to buy books with your Book Bucks (one buck per book) Nov. 3 to 13.

Come by the library to fill out the summer raffle form or email the information to the library at granbypubliclibrary@gmail.com by Nov. 13 (only needed if you want to enter raffles).

Holiday bazaar at St. Theresa’s Gym

SOUTH HADLEY – Immaculate Heart of Mary is holding their Annual Holiday Bazaar at Saint Theresa’s Gym, located on 9 E. Parkview Dr., in South Hadley, on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

This is in accordance with the Board of Health restrictions limiting the number of shoppers in the room, social distancing and with hand sanitizer stations throughout.

The holidays are coming and shoppers will find décor for fall, Christmas and year round. Craft vendors will be there showing a variety of items for cooking, jewelry and other accessories. Gift baskets and a lottery ticket tree will be raffled. Join us for fun and find a great holiday gift.

For further info., contact the IHM main office at 413-467-9821. There will be ample free parking.

Join the UMass Theater witches in COVEN-19

AMHERST – This week, UMass Amherst invites audiences to join in an interactive, immersive community online that seeks to find joy, resiliency, and magical art amid the hard times all are facing.

Oct. 29 to 31, a company of theater witches offers COVEN-19, or, magicks for unprecedented times as a way to create warmth and light in dark times. Led by dramaturgy MFA students Maegan Clearwood and Percival Hornak, and undergrad Helen Rahman, an online coven of 13 performers and creators fuses witchcraft traditions, feminism and theater into an online, immersive format.

“For me personally, magic is a source of healing and introspection,” Clearwood says, and she originally proposed this project as a way “to be with other like-minded people and figure out how to make the world a better place.”

In keeping with that ethos, this is a devised piece, meaning that rather than working from a script, the company built the work by exploring questions and themes together. “It’s a really nice opportunity just for us to experiment with ways of making theatre that are egalitarian and collaborative,” said Hornak.

The finished piece developed over the course of rehearsals, culminating in an interactive experience for the audience. After gathering to begin the performance, audience members will be led into separate break-out rooms via Zoom, where they’ll find company members who will invite the audience to make magick with them, with experiences curated for the specific people present in the room with the performers.

While Clearwood reads tarot and has used her practice to help her puzzle out the answers to knotty problems on theater productions in the past, others in the coven/company are newer to witchcraft. The coven explored a variety of types of magick, like sigil drawing, candle magic, kitchen witchcraft, and divination tools like tarot cards or rune stones.

Rahman expects skeptics in the audience, and welcomes people of all different belief systems. One of the things she’s hoping to come out of this production is an opportunity to see where different religions and rituals intersect and to find commonality of belief. Developing confidence in one’s own intuitions, for example, is an important life skill regardless of belief status, she points out.

COVEN-19 will perform around Samhain — the ancient holiday that predates and in some ways influenced the concept of Halloween — when the veil between this world and the other is at its thinnest.

Presented live online Oct. 29 and 31 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 30 at midnight.

This event is free. Visit the Fine Arts Center Box Office to claim your spot in the virtual audience now.



There will be a two-day event hosted by the UMass Theater witches which is free to the public.

CHIEF from page 7

ber one, making your expectations known right off the bat. What you expect from the personnel, how they’re going to handle calls, how we’re going to work together on things like that. The next one is what can we do to mentor people, how do we get people to take charge of different incidents,” he said. “I think that’s what we’re looking to do. We’re going to find out where this department is going to go over the next couple of years.”

He as an interim fire chief he felt the most important aspect was setting up “a line of succession.”

“I think it’s important that we work towards a line of succession – who can take over this department and put it in a direction that the selectboard and the community would like it to go,” Czerwinski said. “That’s the key, it’s the citizens of Granby’s fire department. They need to have their expectations known. When they pick up the phone and call 911, what do they expect?”

He added he wanted to community to get the service they pay for.

Czerwinski said he’s worked with combination departments such as Granby’s before, meaning there are career firefighters and volunteer firefighters in the department.

As far as challenges facing the department, Czerwinski said he would want to sit down with people in the department to find out.

“Some of the first people I meet with first are the selectboard and say, ‘Okay where do you think this department should be going and how do you think it’s going to meet the needs of the community?’” said Czerwinski. “Then sit down with the membership both the career side and the volunteer side and say, ‘How are we doing? What are we doing? How do we make it work for the citizens?’”

As far as community relations, Czerwinski said he “isn’t afraid to work with the community.”

“That’s where we need to be seen, to be out in the public,” he said. “People understand who you are. It’s not a matter of a nine to five job when you’re a fire chief... You’re out at all different days, hours, nights. You need to show up to community events, you need expect your people to also participate in community events so that way they’re recognizable on the street and people learn to know and trust them.”

In September, the selectboard voted the acting Fire Chief, Bruce Carpenter, hold off on his retirement until Nov. 14 by appointing him as fire services assistant administrator.

Since June 1, Carpenter, who was previously deputy chief, has been working as acting chief of the department, however he notified the board in early August that he would be retiring.

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Tigers grab another home win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley girls' varsity soccer team has only lost two regular season games since the beginning of the 2017 regular season. Both of their losses came on the road.

The Lady Tigers kept their home winning streak alive by posting a 4-1 victory over the Palmer Lady Panthers, last Thursday night.

"We haven't lost a home game in the four years that I've been coaching here," said South Hadley head coach Rich Marjanski. "We normally play very well on our turf field. We're a much faster team on this field and we're able to keep the ball on the ground a lot more."

South Hadley (4-1), who lost at Belchertown in the second game of this season, has compiled an impressive 55-2-3 regular season record during the past four years. Their only other regular season loss came at Springfield Central during the 2017 campaign.

The Lady Tigers, who are the defending Division 3 state champions, have captured the Western Mass. title the past three years. There are two banners representing the state and Western Mass. championship titles hanging from the front of the press box.

Please see **TIGERS**, page 8



Paige Marjanski lets a free kick loose.



Riley Suchinez kicks away for the Tigers.



Teagan Gawron sets to shoot on goal.



Lauren Marjanski takes possession and starts to move toward midfield.



Jaiden Luis makes a move for the ball.

Photos by Deanna Sloat

School shuts down sports, others join high-risk status

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – After three weeks of being named “high-risk” communities for COVID-19, Holyoke High School became the first school outside of Springfield’s schools to shut high school sports down.

Not only has Holyoke High School shut down their sports, the remainder of the fall season has been officially cancelled according to a letter from Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos.

“The health and safety of our community must remain the top priority,” stated Matos in a letter to the school community. “And any future plans for athletics must continue to adapt to evolving public health metrics. We are writing to inform you that in consultation with the local Board of Health, and in alignment with City, State, and MIAA guidelines, the remainder of Holyoke High School’s fall sports season is canceled. This is unfortunate and extremely disappointing, especially for our student-athletes, coaches, and fans who were looking forward to a complete fall season. This move is necessary out of an abundance of caution. While difficult for all involved, our responsibility is to keep our students and staff safe.

“The City of Holyoke has been in the red category for three weeks, which represents four weeks of higher rates of spread of the coronavirus, largely due to small group gatherings where people are not following health and safety guidelines. Per the Department of Public Health, several other communities in the county are now also in the red category. HPS athletes and their families have been traveling to and playing in those communities as well.”

Holyoke entered its third week in high-risk status, though its rate of COVID cases had actually declined. Data was released late last Thursday night. The state had been updating its high-risk status map on Wednesdays.

When Holyoke’s status went to high-risk, West

Please see **STATUS**, page 8



Sophia Gagnon heads up the field with the ball.



Goalie Justice Delaney makes a save for the Rams.



Kayla Kletotka tries to steal the ball.



Gabby Walz picks up the ball after making a play on it.

Rams and Indians

GRANBY – Ella Laliberte scored twice to help Granby girls soccer defeat Ware 3-1 last Monday afternoon. Justice Delaney made 16 saves in goal.



Briana Sosa gets the steal near the sideline.

Hall of Fame Women's Challenge to be held in 'Bubbleville'

UNCASVILLE – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame today announced the Hall of Fame Women's Challenge scheduled for Saturday, November 28 and Sunday, November 29 at Mohegan Sun Arena will now be a part of "Bubbleville," a large scale effort to house several events relocated and reimagined due to COVID-19.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Gazelle Group are collaborating to produce multiple college basketball games at Mohegan Sun from November 25 through December 4, 2020, while providing a controlled environment with teams and event staff adhering to tribal, government, and NCAA health and safety protocols and testing requirements.

"The Hall of Fame Women's Challenge has been held at Mohegan Sun Arena for many years in front of the tremendous UConn fanbase. While COVID-19 has forced us to reassess many events and safety protocols, we are proud to still be hosting these four outstanding teams in a world-class venue," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. "We thank Mohegan Sun for their partnership and their diligence to produce this tournament in a bubble-like atmosphere."

The Basketball Hall of Fame Women's Challenge will feature local favorite and 11-time National Champions UConn (which joined the Big East Conference on July 1), Maine (America East Conference), Mississippi State (Southeastern Conference) and Quinnipiac (Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference). Game times, television details and ticket information will be released at a later date.

STATUS from page 7

Springfield refused to play against Holyoke and games between the two schools were postponed. Based on the information provided by Matos, it appears even if Holyoke's status improves, there will be no resumption of fall sports.

Monson and Chicopee joined the ranks of high-risk communities by data released last Thursday.

A game between Chicopee and Ludlow boys soccer was postponed last Saturday morning, but it may not have been related to Chicopee's status change as both Chicopee and Chicopee Comprehensive were scheduled to have regular game action this week.

Amherst Regional, which currently shares a "bubble" with South Hadley, Granby, and Belchertown, moved to moderate risk. Amherst and Belchertown were set to resume matchups this week.

Belchertown, due to past precedent, will likely not play Monson until has been removed from high-risk status. There are about four weeks remaining in the abbreviated fall season.

PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER

Drug take back day yields 2,600 pounds in Hampshire county

Staff report

REGION – A total of 3,533 pounds of unused, wanted and expired drugs were collected at today's 19th Annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day in Hampshire and Franklin counties and Athol, a 50 percent increase over the typical amount collected.

Some 2,639 pounds were collected in Hampshire County and 894 in Franklin County and Athol.

"What an amazing turn out today for the Drug Take Back!" said organizer Maria Sotolongo, director of the drug diversion and treatment program for the Northwestern District Attorney's Office. "We're so grateful to all the police departments and community members for participating in such an important event."

More than 60,000 pounds have been collected locally, since Drug Take Back Day was established by the Drug Enforcement Administration in 2010 to raise awareness of the importance of removing drugs from medicine cabinets to prevent their misuse. The last time Drug Take Back was held on Oct. 26, 2019, some 2,108 pounds were collected locally.

"We know that among teens who have used prescription drugs to get high, most obtain them not from drug dealers or the internet, but from the family medicine



Amherst police officers collecting unwanted drugs in front of Wildwood Elementary School.

cabinet," Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan said.

"As the pandemic has persisted, the national crisis of addiction and drug overdoses has not abated. Data from our office show that opioid-related overdoses in Hampshire and Franklin counties have increased 15 percent during the first four months of 2020, compared to 2019," Sullivan said. "Getting unwanted and expired drugs out of circulation is something we all can do to help combat this crisis."

The drugs are boxed, sealed, and brought by police or sheriff's officers to Community Eco Power in Agawam for incineration.

Participating communities this year included Amherst, Belchertown, Easthampton, Goshen, Hadley, Northampton, Pelham, Southampton, Williamsburg and Worthington in Hampshire County; Deerfield, Greenfield, Leverett, Montague and Sunderland in Franklin County and Athol in Worcester County.

TIGERS from page 7

Because of COVID-19, the Lady Tigers won't have the opportunity to defend their titles this year.

"We're a little bit sad that we won't have a chance to add another title to the banners, but we're just happy to be playing soccer this year," said South Hadley senior Teagan Gawron, who scored a pair of goals and added an assist in the home win against Palmer. "It has been very special being a member of this soccer team during the past couple of years."

Despite the setback, Palmer head coach Nick Marciano thought his team performed very well in the only meeting of the season between the two squads.

"We played very well tonight. The only thing that we couldn't do was score," Marciano said. "We've been having trouble putting the ball into the net in our past couple of games. It's very frustrating."

The Lady Panthers (2-2), who won their first two games of the season, were outscored, 9-1, in their next two matches. Senior's Avery Labonte, Miyah Mega, and Jillian Lombardi didn't play in the South Hadley game because of injuries.

For the second consecutive game, Palmer junior Madalyn Theriault was held without a goal or an assist. She entered this week's action still needing one more point to reach the 100-point milestone.

Coach Marjanski praised senior Anna Evans and freshman Gianna Roy

for their defensive performance on Theriault.

"I thought Anna Evans did an outstanding job defensively on Theriault, who's an outstanding striker," Coach Marjanski said. "Gianna Roy also played very well defensively. Anna has taken Gianna under her wing this year."

The other two Lady Tigers defenders are junior Elyse Manzi and sophomore Kacie Levrault.

The last South Hadley player to reach the 100-point plateau was Lindsay Marjanski, who was the scoreboard operator for last Thursday's home game. She's still hoping to join the women's track team at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester this winter.

Lindsay watched her two younger sisters combine for three points in the home win against the Lady Panthers.

The Lady Tigers took a 1-0 lead with 13:27 left in the opening quarter following a goal by freshman Lauren Marjanski, which was assisted by Evans. It was her sixth goal of the season.

Palmer junior goalkeeper Sara Dresser, who made a total of 15 saves tried her best to keep the Lady Panthers within striking distance.

With 28 seconds left in the first quarter, Gawron delivered a pass to senior Paige Marjanski, who fired a low shot into the right corner.

Paige, who was teammates with her older sister during the past couple of years, has enjoyed playing on the same soccer team with her younger sister this year.

"I kind of like it a little bit better be-

ing the older sister this year," she said. "I can tell Lauren where to go and what to do on the field. She has been playing very well and has scored a goal in every game this season."

Whenever Palmer tried to create some attack offensively in the second quarter, it would be broken up by the South Hadley defense.

The score was still 2-0 at the break, but it didn't take South Hadley very long to increase the lead.

The duo of Paige Marjanski and Gawron hooked up again five minutes into the third quarter.

This time, Paige Marjanski netted her fourth goal of the season and Gawron was credited with her second assist.

Gawron wrapped up the Lady Tigers scoring with another goal with 15:50 left in the match. It was assisted by sophomore Emma Sanford.

The Lady Panthers got on the scoreboard following an unassisted goal by senior Chelsea Bigos with a little less than ten minutes remaining. Her shot deflected off the crossbar before crossing over the goal-line past South Hadley sophomore goalkeeper Rylee Suchinez (5 saves).

With five minutes left, a shot attempt by Theriault sailed high over the crossbar.

The Lady Tigers, who were scheduled to host Ware on Tuesday afternoon, are scheduled to wrap-up the home slate against Belchertown on November 10.

The Lady Panthers were scheduled to host Belchertown on Tuesday afternoon.

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Public Notices ◀

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by **Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that a **SEALED BID** auction with bids due **Monday, November 2, 2020 at 9 a.m.** Vehicles will be available for viewing on October 27 through October 29, 2020 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. by appointment only. **Please call 413-534-5373 for appointments.**

The following motor vehicles will be sold to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles:

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13 Cedar St. #2
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

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Mark B. Bradley
84 Ashfield St.
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

10/16, 10/23, 10/30/2020

Town of Granby Massachusetts Conservation Commission

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:00 PM** at *1 Library Lane-Old Carnegie Library-Top Floor-B West State Street, to consider the following:

At 7:30 "NOI"
1. **Filed by applicant NSTAR Electric DBA Eversource, Owner, Eversource ROW for proposed replacement of 47 structures along the 1113 Line right of Way (ROW) traversing area north to southwest from Bay Road (Amherst) to East Street (South Hadley). 17 of the proposed structures have proposed permanent or temporary impact in wetlands, buffer zones and/or riverfront areas located in the Town of Granby.**

***This meeting may have to be held in a remote session.** Please go to <https://www.granby-ma.gov/conservation-commission/agenda/conservation-commission-20> 48 hours before the meeting to check on the status of the meeting in case you need a phone # and password to join this hearing/meeting.

Anyone interested, and wishing to be heard, should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this "NOI" are available for inspection during regular business hours at Granby Town Hall.

Edward Chapdelaine,
Vice Chair
Granby Conservation
Commission
10/30/2020

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF GRANBY

The Select Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday November 16, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. and 5:45 PM** at the ****Senior Center Building** located at 10-B West State Street, Granby, MA to grant permission to National Grid to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, of said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked — Pleasant St- & Morgan St- Granby Massachusetts

1. Pleasant St. - National Grid to install (1) SO pole # 44-50 on Pleasant St. beginning at a point approximately 1000 feet west of the centerline of the intersection of W. State St. and Pleasant St. Install 40 feet class 2 SO midspan pole # 44-50 with anchor on Pleasant St. to support feeder upgrades required for East St. DG/Solar project.

2. Morgan St. - National Grid to install (1) SO mid-span pole on Morgan St. beginning at a point approximately 500 feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Pleasant St. to correct low wires.

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

The petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable

point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

Copies of proposed Plan-Pleasant Street- & Morgan Street Granby MA Granby Massachusetts are available in the Board of Selectmen's Office 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. – 12 noon on Friday located at 10-B West State Street, Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor.

****This meeting may have to be held in a remote session.** Please go to <https://www.granby-ma.gov/selectboard/agenda/selectboard-44> 48 hours before the meeting to check on the status of the meeting in case you need a phone # and password to join this hearing/meeting.

Granby Selectboard
Glen N. Sexton
Jay Joyce
Jennifer Silva
10/30/2020

Town of Granby Massachusetts Conservation Commission

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:00 PM** at *1 Library Lane-Old Carnegie Library-Top Floor to consider the following:

1. At 7:30 "RDA" filed by Raymond Sharick see whether work depicted on plan(s) and/or map(s) referenced are subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or any Municipal Wetlands Ordinance or bylaw of the Town of Granby with regards to property located at 68 Harris Street and known as Map 13-B in the Town

of Granby.

2. At 7:30 "RDA" filed by Lee Lalonde see whether area/work depicted on plan(s) and/or map(s) referenced are subject to/or the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act with regards to property located at 42 Taylor Street and known as Map 8C-A-14 in the Town of Granby.

***This meeting may have to be held in a remote session.** Please go to <https://www.granby-ma.gov/conservation-commission/agenda/conservation-commission-20> 48 hours before the meeting to check on the status of the meeting in case you need a phone # and password to join this hearing/meeting.

Anyone interested, and wishing to be heard, should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this "RDA's" are available for inspection during regular business hours at Granby Town Hall.

Edward Chapdelaine,
Vice Chair
Granby Conservation
Commission
10/30/2020



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DOG PARK from page 1

of the South Hadley Dog Park, a non-profit organization that is seeking donations for the upkeep and maintenance of the park.

Located along Mulligan Dr. in close proximity to the Ledges Golf Club, the spacious park opened with little fanfare, an action taken to prevent a large gathering. Over the past three weeks, dozens of dog-owners have visited the site with their furry friends.

"It's as much social interaction for the humans as it is for the dogs, especially given COVID," said Mathieu. "People are being very respectful. They have their masks on and are social distancing, but it is just fantastic to see these dogs running around having a great time. Every member of the board is absolutely thrilled."

The Friends group began spearheading the project long before the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic. A year of uncertainty failed to derail the park's progression and eventual opening.

The site features 12 parking spaces, multiple surfaces and is ADA compliant. The project was funded primarily through

a \$218,000 grant from the Stanton Foundation, which conducts research and offers financial support to strengthen the bonds between humans and dogs in memory of Dr. Frank Stanton.

An additional \$30,000 was approved by Town Meeting Members in Nov. 2018. The facility will be maintained by volunteer members of the Friends group.

"We had a volunteer day on Oct. 17. Everybody showed up," said Mathieu. "We erected the kiosk, pulled poison ivy, cleaned the trails and debris and worked all day. It just looked so good when we are finished. People are committed; every member of the board is committed. It's been a real pleasure working with this group."

South Hadley Recreation Director Andrew Rogers is serving as the town's liaison to the park. The dog park is open to all.

Thus far, Mathieu has heard only rave reviews regarding the new site but is receptive to all feedback both positive and negative. During times of normalcy, the site will include three trash receptacles but, as a COVID-19 precaution, only one currently exists.



Photo by Melina Bourdeau

The South Hadley Dog Park is now open to the public and canine companions to enjoy.

"We have within the dog park three trash stations and we do have stations where they can get poop bags but we [temporarily] removed the three smaller containers and have just the one large trash barrel, which we empty weekly," said Mathieu.

All those who enter the dog park must wear masks and social distance. Notices and regulations can be found all throughout the park.

Weather permitting, the facility will be open to the public year round, although it

will not be plowed this winter.

Mathieu hinted that a possible opening celebration could occur next year. For the time being, she is relieved that the park is open and is excited to welcome all humans and canines who wish to use it.

"It was a three-year project. We had a lot of obstacles, but, boy, it was worth it in the end," she said.

Inquiries pertaining to the park can be directed to southhadleydogpark@gmail.com.

BINGO from page 1

any person," said Chamber President Michelle Theroux. "They can download a bingo card, print it up or just use it electronically and take a picture with their phone of the receipt or save the hard copy of it. Once they have a bingo, they can mail it into the chamber office or email it."

With no end to the COVID-19 pandemic in sight, local businesses are going to great lengths to stay afloat. The chamber's bingo initiative, which lasts through Nov. 25, offers residents an incentive to visit a diverse lineup of establishments.

"As people are gearing up for the holiday season, they know

that it will feel and look a little bit different this year," said Theroux. "Now is the opportunity to get gift cards or to do home improvement or get your car repaired. This isn't specifically restaurants; we tried to include a variety of businesses that are really representative of our membership."

No price points are associated with any of the businesses or bingo squares. The chamber wanted to make the game affordable for all who wish to participate.

Thinking outside of the box has been integral to the success or continued existence of many local businesses this year. Theroux discussed the importance of finding new ways to conduct operations during a pandemic that

shows no signs of stopping.

"People really did think creatively and differently probably because it was a matter of survival," she said. "It certainly speaks to the tenacity of our local businesses. It shows that folks were able to pivot and shift their business platforms to work from home models or going virtual to delivery services or to do curbside pickup or delivery for folks who were not comfortable going into stores."

Included on the bingo square are Swenson Granite on Granby Rd., Ebenezer's Bar & Grill on Bridge St., Tower Theatres on College St., Thirsty Mind Coffee and Wine Bar on College St., The Boathouse on Alvord St., Board

& Brush on College St., Dickinson Farm & Greenhouse on E. State St., Orangetheory Fitness in Hadley and the Summit View Banquet and Meeting House in Holyoke.

Also featured are Liquor Town on Granby Rd., the Whiskey Barrel on Lyman St., CRAFT Salon on Granby Rd., Ledges Golf Club on Mulligan Dr., Veryl's Automotive Services, Inc. on Newton St., Odyssey Bookshop on College St. Ron's Precision Automotive on Granby Rd., and Orchards Golf Club in Hadley.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts in Hatfield, the Yarde Tavern on Hadley St., Johnny's Tap Room on College St., Chap de Laine's Interiors,

Inc. on College St., Moxy Boutique on College St., Drunken Rabbit Brewing on New Ludlow Rd., Serenity Yoga on College St. can also be found on the square.

Many of the businesses participating in the game offered up gift cards ranging from \$25 to \$100 as prizes. Theroux divulged when the winners will be announced.

"All winning bingos will be entered into a drawing, and we will select at random the winners. The game closes on Nov. 25, and we will be drawing the winning bingos on the 30th," she said.

To view a bingo card, one can be encouraged to visit shgchamber.com/events.

Library, CES collaborate on outdoor activity for toddlers

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – A special occasion took place on afternoon of Oct. 22 at Buttery Brook Park in South Hadley. The South Hadley Public Library and the Collaborative for Education Services teamed up to coordinate a music and rhythm session for children and families.

CES is a Northampton-based non-profit educational service agency that has partnered with the South Hadley library on numerous occasions in the past.

Last Thursday’s hands-on activity was the first CES initiative to occur in person since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March.

“It was really nice to be able to see the children and families in person again,” said Dana Mengwasser, a child and parent educator and early childhood behavior specialist at CES. “We heard from them that it was a huge relief and a lot of fun to see us in person. We did a lot to make sure that the event was as safe as possible. We had everybody wear masks and stay 10 to 12 ft. apart.”

Using kitchen utensils such as wooden spoons, pots and pans, those who participated in the Oct. 22 function clapped, tapped and stomped to facilitate rhythm. Singing was not permitted, as it was deemed to be too risky given its capacity to spread the virus.

“Rhythm and drumming and physical movement are really the three things that came to mind knowing that we could do those from a distance in-person with people and all sort of be on the same page in a way that is really powerful,” said Mengwasser.

The youngsters who were present at Buttery Brook Park last Thursday cultivated their early rhythm skills by tapping along to nursery rhymes that Mengwasser read aloud. All participants were asked to bring their own supplies.

The children also enjoyed making crocodile noises in unison and played



Photo submitted by Dana Mengwasser

Local toddlers used pots, pans, buckets and wooden spoons to facilitate rhythm during an Oct. 22 initiative at Buttery Brook Park.

a game of “Follow the Leader,” all of which Mengwasser believed contributed to a positive experience.

“It was fun, it was silly and it was exciting,” she said. “It was a rare opportunity and valuable given the circumstances, especially for younger children like toddlers, who are easier to engage in person than over the computer.”

In the past, CES has held many events inside the library’s Children’s Room at the Canal St. facility. In order to pull off last week’s outdoor activity, both entities worked together as they navigated through the proper channels.

“The library has really gone above and beyond, especially the [Youth Services Librarian] Meg Clancy,” said Mengwasser. “I am very grateful the town of South Hadley. We had to jump through a lot of hoops to do an outdoor program because we had to meet requirements in order to keep it as safe as possible. We needed approval from the Board of Health, the Dept. of Public Health, the Town Administrator and the Dept. of Public Works for use of the site.”

On Thurs. Nov. 5, the CES and the library will host a costume parade at Buttery Brook Park at 3p.m. The event was originally scheduled for Oct. 29 but was postponed due to inclement weather, said Clancy on the evening of Oct. 28.

Moving forward, Mengwasser is confident that there will be room for additional in-person activities. She explained the many benefits that such functions can entail when safely executed.

“Children are very socially resilient and their development is very resilient,” she said. “I think that a lot of families are doing fine with the level of isolation that most families are facing right now but do think that having in-person interactions is developmentally appropriate for children and very fulfilling for them. It’s different in-person when you’re all in the same environment and not just little boxes on the screen.”

Updates regarding the costume parade that is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 5 can be found on the library’s website at shadleylib.org.

Flag placing in Indian Orchard on Nov. 7

INDIAN ORCHARD – On Saturday, Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. until approximately 12 p.m., Indian Orchard American Legion Post #277 along with volunteers from the Sabis International Charter School’s Student Life Organization and a group of volunteers recruited by former Springfield Police

Sergeant, John Delaney will meet at Saint Aloysius Cemetery on Berkshire Avenue in Indian Orchard, in order to place flags on the graves of those departed veterans who are buried there.

For many years, the post has had the honor and privilege of serving departed comrades by meeting before

Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day to flag the graves. As American Legion members are advancing in age, the group is pleased to have the assistance of the Sabis Group and Delaney’s associates.

This will be a “rain or shine” activity.

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